

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 ACDA-12 DODE-00 NSAE-00

USIA-06 TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00

VO-05 /061 W

-----005032 271821Z /43

R 271517Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9624

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UR, US, ESTC

SUBJECT: TRANSPORT OF CDC COMPUTER TO SAKHALIN

REF: STATE 77405 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET REACHED A DECISION ON FLIGHT CLEARANCE TO TRANSPORT CONTROL DATA CORPORATION CYBER 172 COMPUTER TO YUZHNO SAKHALINSK VIA ALASKAN AIR. CDC REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT ELIASSON WAS IN MOSCOW LAST WEEK, IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO "PERSUADE" THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO DECIDE QUICKLY. HE WANTED TO ARRANGE A MEETING INVOLVING HIMSELF, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF AVIATION, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ELEKTRONORGTEKHNIKA, THE FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION WHICH PURCHASED THE COMPUTER, AT WHICH THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AND A DECISION REACHED. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFUSED TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING. ALSO, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, BOLDIN'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INDICATE A POSITIVE DECISION HAS BEEN OR IS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN. CDC, SINCE IT WANTS TO BEGIN SHIPMENT APRIL 18 AND MUST COORDINATE THE MOVEMENT OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, THE AIRCRAFT, A SHIP, AND THE

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DELIVERY TO OAKLAND OF EQUIPMENT FROM VARIOUS POINTS IN THE UNITED STATES, HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PROCEED WITH PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS, IN THE HOPE THAT FLIGHT CLEARANCE WILL BE GRANTED. BOLDIN, THEREFORE, APPARENTLY IS IN THE UNITED STATES BASED UPON THE NEED TO PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENTS.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAY REACH A DECISION THIS WEEK. AT THE START OF CDC'S ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FLIGHT CLEARANCE, EMBASSY WROTE FEDOSEYEV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF USA DIVISION OF MFA, ASKING THAT MFA GIVE NOTICE OF APPROVAL OR REFUSAL OF FLIGHT CLEARANCE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF PLANNED FLIGHTS, RATHER THAN THE NORMAL ONE OR TWO DAYS, SINCE SO MUCH COORDINATION WAS INVOLVED. ALTHOUGH MFA NEVER RESPONDED, THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS WANT THIS EQUIPMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, THE FACT THAT ONLY ONE IL-76T EXISTS AND THE FACT THAT IT MUST BE BOOKED AT LEAST A MONTH IN ADVANCE, MIGHT PERSUADE MFA TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH EARLY NOTIFICATION IN THIS CASE. APART FROM THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS MAY ACT OR HAVE ACTED TO APPROVE CDC REQUEST TO MOVE CYBER 172 COMPUTER BY ALASKAN AIR. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMPUTERS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
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